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ORDINANCES,
RULES AND REGULATIONS

AS TO THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

CHARITY BUILDING,

AND

TEMPORARY HOME.

B O S T O N :

ALFRED MUDGE & SON, CITY PRINTERS, 34 SCHOOL STREET,

1869.



ACT OF 1864.

ORDINANCES,
RULES AND REGULATIONS,
AS TO THE
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,
CHARITY BUILDING
AND
TEMPORARY HOME.

BOSTON :
ALFRED MUDGE & SON, CITY PRINTERS, 34 SCHOOL STREET.
1869.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

CHAPTER 128.

AN ACT

Concerning the Overseers of the Poor of the City of Boston.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

SECTION 1. The Overseers of the Poor in the town of Boston, incorporated on the twenty-fifth day of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-two, shall be known and called by the name of "The Overseers of the Poor in the City of Boston," and as such shall continue to hold and possess all the property, and be entitled to all the rights and privileges, and be subject to all the duties, liabilities and obligations, which now belong or appertain to said corporation, whether as successors of the corporation above mentioned, or as successors of the corporation or body politic incorporated by the forty-fourth chapter of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and two, by the title of "The Trustees of John Boylston's charitable Donations, for the benefit and support of aged Poor Persons, and of Orphans and Deserted Children," including the faithful administration and execution of all the trusts, bequests, legacies, endowments and charities confided to them, which have been heretofore, or shall hereafter be, accepted by them.

SECT. 2. The said Overseers of the Poor in the City of Boston shall consist of twelve persons, residents of the city, and be elected by the City Council of said City of Boston, by concur-

rent vote, in the following manner, within sixty days next after this act shall take effect: The said City Council shall elect four persons to hold their office until the first Monday in April, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and until other persons are elected in their places; four persons to hold their office until the first Monday in April, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and until others are elected in their places; and four persons to hold their office until the first Monday in April, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-five and until others are elected in their places; and thereafterwards annually, on the first Monday in February, or within sixty days thereafter, four persons to hold their office for the term of three years from and after the first Monday in April next following such elections, respectively, and until other persons are elected in their places. Vacancies occurring in said corporation, from any cause, may be filled by said City Council, in like manner, at any time; and the person elected to fill any vacancy shall hold his office during the term for which his predecessor was elected. The City Council shall also have power, at any time for cause, to remove either of said Overseers from office.

SECT. 3. The persons so first elected as Overseers of the Poor in the City of Boston, shall meet and organize on the first Monday of the month succeeding their election, and those thereafterwards elected shall meet for that purpose on the first Monday in April of each year. They shall choose a chairman from their own number, and a treasurer, secretary, and such subordinate officers as they may deem expedient, and shall define their duties and fix their respective salaries.

SECT. 4. Said Overseers shall render such accounts and reports of their expenditures, acts and doings, as may be required by the City Council, and the same shall be audited and allowed if according to law, in such manner as the City Council shall from time to time determine.

SECT. 5. The present members of the corporation shall hold their office until others are elected in their places, under the provisions of this act.

SECT. 6. No one of said Overseers, nor any individual in their employ, shall be interested in a private capacity, directly or indirectly, in any contract or agreement for labor or for articles furnished by direction of said Overseers, unless the same be expressly authorized by a recorded vote of the Board.

SECT. 7. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

April 2, 1864.

CITY OF BOSTON.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR.

AN ORDINANCE

Relating to the Overseers of the Poor.

Be it ordained by the Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Boston, in City Council assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1. In the month of January in each year there shall be appointed a Joint Committee of the City Council to be called the Committee on the Overseers of the Poor.

SECT. 2. All matters within the control and jurisdiction of the City Council relating to the Overseers of the Poor, or to paupers, or to poor and destitute persons, or to the City Temporary Home, shall be referred to said Committee, unless otherwise ordered by the City Council, and said Committee shall perform such duties as are herein provided for.

SECT. 3. The Overseers of the Poor shall cause to be kept in a neat and methodical style and manner, a complete set of books under the direction of said Committee, wherein shall be stated among other things, in detail, the mode in which all funds in their hands are invested and how secured, the amount and dates of all receipts and expenditures, and to whom and from what funds all payments of money are made, and shall preserve in a safe and careful manner all papers, property, evidences of property, vouchers, and other things entrusted to, and deposited with them.

They shall also state and enter in said books whatever other particulars said Committee shall direct, relating to any property or moneys in their hands, entrusted to them, or expended under their direction, so that said books may exhibit clearly, completely, and in detail, all matters connected therewith.

SECT. 4. All said books, papers, and property, and the book, or books hereinafter provided for, may at any time be inspected or examined by the Mayor, by said Committee, or by any committee or person whom the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen, or the Common Council shall direct or appoint to inspect and examine the same.

SECT. 5. Said Overseers shall also cause to be kept in a neat and methodical style and manner, another book or set of books, under the direction of the said Committee, wherein shall be stated, among other things, the name, residence, for as long a period as can be conveniently ascertained, birthplace, occupation, property or means of support, whether married or unmarried, name of husband and wife, number, names, residences, and occupations of children, if any, and so far as can be conveniently ascertained, and shall be of importance for determining settlements or other matters; the names and residences of, and other information in regard to, the ancestors of every person to whom relief or assistance shall be given or refused, the nature and amount of such relief or assistance, and the cause or ground upon which the same is given or refused, and the source or fund from which it is taken or derived, and all other particulars or information which it is for the public interest to preserve or which said Committee shall direct or request, so that said book or books may present in a clear, complete and detailed manner, and in such a form as to be readily found, all information in regard to persons to whom relief is given or refused, which may be of value to the City of Boston or the Commonwealth, now or hereafter.

SECT. 6. Said Overseers shall, on the first Mondays of January, April, July, and October, in each year, present to the City Council a brief and condensed report of their doings, receipts and expenditures during the three months ending with the last Monday of the preceding month, showing in a succinct manner and in such form and classification, as they shall deem expedient, or said Committee shall direct, their receipts and expenditures, and the number and description of the persons relieved, without naming the same, and in what manner.

SECT. 7. On the first Monday of February in each year they shall submit a report of their doings, receipts, and expenditures for the year ending with the last Monday of the preceding December, containing under some convenient classification the facts and information comprised in their four preceding quarterly reports, together with a statement of all moneys, property or investments remaining in their hands, and such information and suggestions as they shall deem it expedient to present to the City Council, or shall be requested by the Mayor or City Council, or by said Committee to furnish, and they shall, whenever requested by the Mayor or City Council, communicate such information as may be desired by either.

SECT. 8. On the second Monday of each month said Committee shall examine all said books, and ascertain whether the same have been kept in conformity with the provisions hereof, whether all payments and expenditures for the month ending on the last Monday of the preceding month have been legally made, and are properly vouched, and whether relief and assistance have been legally granted or refused. At least twice in each year, once in the month of January, and once in the month of June, said Committee shall examine and investigate the condition and investment of all property entrusted to, and deposited with said Overseers. And if, on any of such examinations, it shall appear that any payment or expenditure, assistance, or relief

has been illegally made or given, is not properly vouched or due care is not taken in regard to the management, preservation, or investment of said property, or that all said books are not properly kept according to the provisions hereof, said Committee shall thereupon report the same to the City Council for their action, and may make such reports and suggestions upon any matter as they shall deem expedient.

JUNE 15, 1864.

CITY OF BOSTON.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVEN.

AN ORDINANCE

To amend an Ordinance relating to the Overseers of the Poor.

Be it ordained by the Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Boston, in City Council assembled, as follows :

The 7th Section of the Ordinance relating to the Overseers of the Poor, passed on the fifteenth day of June, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, is hereby amended by striking out the word "February" in the first line, and inserting in place thereof the word "May"; also, by striking out in the third line the words "last Monday," and inserting in place thereof the words "thirtieth day"; also, by striking out in the fourth line the word "December" and inserting in place thereof the word "April."

NOVEMBER 26, 1867.

CITY OF BOSTON.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT.

AN ORDINANCE

To amend an Ordinance relating to the Overseers of the Poor.

Be it ordained by the Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Boston, in City Council assembled, as follows :

SECTION 1. The Ordinance relating to the Overseers of the Poor, passed the fifteenth day of June, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, is hereby amended by striking out, in the second line of the 6th Section, the words "*January, April, July and October,*" and inserting in place thereof the words "*August, November, February and May*"; also, by striking out in the fifth line of said section the word "*Monday,*" and inserting in place thereof the word "*day.*"

APRIL 11, 1868.

CITY OF BOSTON.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINE.

AN ORDINANCE

In addition to an Ordinance relating to the Overseers of the Poor.

Be it ordained by the Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Boston, in City Council assembled, as follows :

SECTION 1. The Overseers of the Poor shall have charge of the Charity Building and Temporary Home on Chardon Street, and shall have power to make and enforce all such proper rules and regulations as they shall deem expedient in relation thereto. They shall, from time to time, determine what societies shall be permitted to occupy the same, and on what terms and for what length of time; and what proportion of the current expenses of managing, heating and lighting the same, and for other purposes other than rent, shall be paid by each. Such occupants shall be removable at the pleasure of said Overseers; but no such rule or regulation shall be in force after the same is disapproved by the City Council, and no assignment of rooms shall be made without the concurrence of the Committee on the Overseers of the Poor.

MARCH 5, 1869.

RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
CHARITY BUILDING
AND
TEMPORARY HOME.

RULES OF THE CHARITY BUILDING.

THE Charity Building is designed to aid in the concentration of the Charitable Organizations existing in the City of Boston, to secure their mutual conference and co-operation in concert with the Overseers of the Poor in discovering and relieving all the deserving poor, and detecting and discouraging "idle and sturdy beggars" and impostors. As the plan proposed is yet untried, it must be expected that experience will suggest modifications of any rules which can now be adopted, and will show that some societies may be better adapted than others to aid in its accomplishment. These rules, therefore, will be subject to such modifications as the Overseers of the Poor may from time to time find desirable; and they reserve to themselves the right, on ample reasonable notice, to determine the occupancy of any of the rooms now or hereafter assigned. The societies are expected to render the services herein provided for as an equivalent for rent; but, as the Overseers are not authorized to contribute to the expenses of the occupants, a suitable charge, to be proportioned and regulated from time to time, will be made to them for all other expenditures, such as heating, lighting, and services in the care of the rooms, so far as the same are actually incurred for their benefit and enjoyment.

The Charity Building will be open regularly from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M., and in the evening by special permission, to be obtained by application to the Secretary.

Room No. 21 and the Hall are reserved for occasional meetings of societies, or for general charitable purposes, and permission can be obtained for their use on application to the Overseers, through the Secretary, in such cases as they deem proper.

Smoking will not be allowed in the building, and all persons will be required to conduct themselves with due regard to neatness and propriety.

No signs shall be placed on or in the building without the consent of the Overseers.

The Overseers reserve the right to regulate and control such persons as may be employed by the societies, so far as relates to the care and use of the building. No person will be allowed to loiter about the entries or passages.

All societies having rooms in the building are required to deposit with the Secretary copies of their charters, or constitutions and by-laws, lists of their officers, and brief statements of their general design and purpose, and of the rules upon which they give assistance. It is also expected that each will at all times give and ask such information and assistance as may be desirable to aid other charitable agencies, or to carry out their own objects.

It is designed ultimately to provide a registry, where the information obtained by the different societies will be condensed and indexed.

Some person will be in attendance at the office of the Overseers from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. on every week day, except on Saturday, and on that day until 2 P. M. only; at the Temporary Home from 5 P. M. to 10 P. M. every evening, and from 2 P. M. on

Saturday, and from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M. on Sundays, to receive and investigate applications for relief; and any citizen of Boston may direct persons in distress, or asking relief, to these places at such times, and obtain cards with the proper address at the office.

RULES OF THE CITY TEMPORARY HOME.

The Temporary Home is designed to furnish provision for foundlings, and persons in a destitute condition. Only women and children can be lodged there; but meals are given to deserving persons on application to the Matron or Overseers. It is not to be understood, however, that all persons applying will be lodged and fed. A just discrimination will be exercised, and the general purpose is to provide through the Overseers and Temporary Home, a means of giving temporary relief only to deserving persons, after such inquiry and investigation as the circumstances of each case require and admit of. Lodgings will be provided for males at the station-houses or elsewhere, in such cases, as may be deemed proper.

The Home shall be in the charge of the Matron, under the direction of the Committee.

The Assistant Matron shall see that the directions of the Matron are properly executed, assist her in the general management of the house, and in her absence shall have charge thereof.

The Janitor shall do such out-door business of the house as may be required of him, and perform clerical services; and at night shall attend the door at the bell-call, and in other ways make himself useful under the direction of the Matron.

All inmates of the house shall conform to the rules thereof, and also to the directions of the Matron or Assistant; be respectful to them, to the domestics, and to all other persons in

the house; and deport themselves in an orderly and quiet manner, and shall do such work about the house as may be required by the Matron or Assistant, and when not employed, shall remain in their rooms.

All inmates, on entering or leaving the house, as well as their packages or bundles, shall be subject to examination by the Matron or Assistant.

All inmates will retire by 9 o'clock, P. M., and no conversation will be allowed in the bedrooms afterwards.

No loud talking or singing, and no spirituous liquors or smoking, and no drunken or disorderly person will be allowed in the house.

All violations of the rules will be reported to the Matron.

Inmates will not be allowed to remain in the kitchen, nor in any of the rooms of the house except those assigned for them, or to have any intercourse with the domestics employed in the house, without permission.

The children shall have a bath daily.

Each nurse shall be responsible for the clothing of the child or children under her care; and it shall be the duty of each to nurse such children as may be required by the Matron or Assistant.

The nurses shall bathe twice in each week, and keep themselves otherwise clean, to the satisfaction of the Matron or Assistant.

Nurses are allowed to leave the house only by permission, and always to be in the house by nine o'clock, P. M.; and will be required to retire by half past nine o'clock.

A record shall be made of all who have received relief in the house during the month, giving the name, age, nativity, condition, whether married or single, and as much of their history and circumstances as may be obtained at the time, and stating

what disposition has been made of them. A condensed copy of this record shall be sent to the Overseers on the first Monday of each month, giving also the number of inmates that remain in the house on the last day of the month, stating how many are under twelve years of age, and how many under one year of age. The matron shall add such remarks as relate to any unusual occurrence in the house, and on any subject that may be of interest to the Board of Overseers.

A register of foundlings received at the City Temporary Home shall be kept in the form herewith submitted:

CHILDREN AND FOUNDLINGS. NO.

Name.
 Sex.
 Color.
 Color of eyes.
 Color of hair.
 Distinguishing marks; articles }
 found; or other circumstances. }
 Birthplace.
 Where found.
 Date of birth.
 When found and apparent age.
 Parents.
 Their residence.
 By whom found.
 When brought to the home.
 By whom.
 Physical condition.
 Date of death.
 Physician attending.
 Cause of death.
 Place of burial.
 Time.
 Other disposition.
 Remarks.

When children are adopted, such adoption shall be approved in writing by some member of the Committee. The entry in the register shall be that the child is adopted, and a separate record shall be kept of such adoptions by the Matron, in the form herewith submitted :

ADOPTIONS.

No. on Register.		REMARKS.
By whom adopted.		
Residence.		
Date of adoption.		
Approved by		

No person, other than the Matron and the members of the Board, shall be permitted to see or be informed of the contents of this record, except by a vote of the Board, upon a written application to them, setting forth the information desired by the applicant, and the reasons therefor.

BILL OF FARE FOR THE INMATES.

Tea and Bread, night and morning.

Two days in the week, Corn Cakes instead of Bread.

DINNERS.

Sunday — Baked Beans and Bread.

Monday — Beef Stew, Bread and Potatoes.

Tuesday and
Friday. } Salt Fish, Bread and Potatoes.

Wednesday — Corned Beef, Bread and Potatoes.

Thursday and
Saturday. } Same as Monday.

With such variations from the above for single meals, as the Committee may from time to time deem to be expedient.

BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR, 1868-9.

FREDERIC W. LINCOLN, JR., *Chairman.*

JOSEPH BUCKLEY,	THOMAS C. AMORY,	JOSEPH T. BAILEY,
LORING LOTHROP,	GEORGE S. HALE,	CHARLES R. MCLEAN,
FRANCIS E. PARKER,	JAMES L. LITTLE,	IRA ALLEN.
GEORGE FABYAN,	THOMAS BLASLAND,	

OTIS NORCROSS, *Treasurer.*

JOHN PRATT, *Secretary.*

COMMITTEES.

Investigation and Relief.

MESSRS. LINCOLN, LOTHROP, AMORY,
HALE and MCLEAN.

Finance and Accounts.

MESSRS. PARKER, LITTLE and
FABYAN.

Employments and Settlements.

MESSRS. AMORY, PARKER and BLASLAND.

Supplies.

MESSRS. LITTLE, MCLEAN and BUCKLEY.

Temporary Home.

MESSRS. BUCKLEY, BAILEY and ALLEN.

Building.

MESSRS. HALE, AMORY and BUCKLEY, and
the Chairman of the Board
"ex officio."

Monthly Sub-Committees.

MR. BUCKLEY, April, July, October, Jan.
MR. BAILEY, May, August, Nov., Feb.
DR. ALLEN, June, Sept., Dec., March.

SEARSTAN CHARTER HOUSE.

Chairman and Governor.....FREDERIC W. LINCOLN, JR.

Directors.....MESSRS. LINCOLN, BUCKLEY, LITTLE, BLAS-
LAND and ALLEN.

Treasurer.....OTIS NORCROSS.

Clerk and Recorder.....JOHN PRATT.

The Charity Building is situated on Hawkins and Chardon Sts., — entrance on Hawkins St. — and contains the following offices :

BASEMENT ROOMS.

Boston Dispensary, Nos. 3, 4 and 5.

City Physician, Nos. 13 and 14.

FIRST STORY ROOMS.

Overseers of the Poor, Nos. 15 to 20.

Industrial Aid Society, Nos. 23 to 26.

Room for general use for Directors, Committees, etc., No 21.

SECOND STORY ROOMS.

Boston Provident Association, Nos. 32, 33 and 40.

Boston Ladies' Sewing Circle, Nos. 35 and 36.

Ladies' City Relief Agency, No. 37.

Secretary and Agent of Massachusetts and Boston Soldiers' Funds, No. 38.

Post 15, G. A. R., No. 39.

THIRD STORY.

Hall for Public Meetings of Societies.

The City Temporary Home is situated on Chardon St.





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(Nov., 1887, 20,000)

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